

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT SEATTLE

CASSANDRA PETTWAY,

CASE NO. C19-0204JLR

Plaintiff,

ORDER FOR REMOTE / VIRTUAL CIVIL JURY TRIAL

RYAN SWANSON &
CLEVELAND PLLC, et al.,

Defendants.

The Court ORDERS that the jury trial scheduled to commence on Monday, February 22, 2021, at 1:30 p.m., be conducted using the following procedures and protocols.

A. REMOTE / VIRTUAL TRIAL FORMAT

1. The entire trial, including jury deliberations, will take place using the ZoomGov.com platform. The parties, counsel, witnesses, jurors, and court staff will not be physically present in the courtroom. The Court will call a jury pool of 24 jurors. The parties will have 3 rounds of 8 minutes to examine the jurors.

1 2. The public will have telephonic access via a number published on the
2 Court's website.

3 **B. PREPARATION**

4 1. Counsel shall familiarize themselves with the ZoomGov.com and Box.com
5 platforms by reviewing the tutorials located at
6 [https://www.wawd.uscourts.gov/attorneys/remotehearings.](https://www.wawd.uscourts.gov/attorneys/remotehearings)
7 2. Counsel shall ensure that they and each of their witnesses have the
8 hardware, software, data bandwidth, and Internet access required to
9 participate remotely. The minimum system requirements are posted at
10 [https://www.wawd.uscourts.gov/attorneys/remotehearings.](https://www.wawd.uscourts.gov/attorneys/remotehearings)
11 3. Counsel shall also ensure that they have one or more alternative means of
12 communicating with their clients and witnesses, as well as with the Court,
13 outside the ZoomGov.com platform (*e.g.*, via cellular phone or email).
14 4. Counsel shall consider establishing a high-speed Internet connection (a
15 hard-wired connection is generally preferable to a wireless Internet
16 connection). Counsel shall also consider the feasibility of participating
17 from their office if the impact of others requiring Internet usage during the
18 proceedings might impact a participant's connection speed.
19 5. Parties and counsel are to participate on Tuesday, February 16, 2021, at
20 2:00 p.m. with the court and court staff for a technology check.

21 **C. RECORDING**

22 1. The Court will provide a court reporter for the trial. No part of the trial may
23 be reproduced, distributed, or transmitted in any form or by any means, in
24 whole or in part, by any participant (attorney, party, witness, or juror) or
25 public observer. This prohibition includes any audio or video recording,
26 photographs, and/or screenshots. The parties and counsel shall ensure that
27 each trial participant for which they are responsible acknowledges and

1 agrees to this prohibition.

2 **D. WITNESSES AND PARTICIPANTS**

3 1. Counsel shall provide, via email to the Court's Courtroom Deputy,
4 Ashleigh Drecktrah at Ashleigh.Drecktrah@wawd.uscourts.gov, the
5 following information for each party, attorney, paralegal, legal assistant,
6 trial or technical consultant, and witness who will participate remotely:
7

- Name
- Email address
- Phone number
- Participant status (*e.g.*, party, attorney, witness, etc.)

8 2. Prior to trial, the Court's Courtroom Deputy will supply to counsel the links
9 for the ZoomGov.com sessions. Counsel shall forward the links to other
10 participants, including witnesses, as appropriate.

11 3. After using the link to access the ZoomGov.com session, participants will
12 enter a virtual waiting room. They will be admitted from the virtual waiting
13 room into the virtual courtroom when appropriate. Counsel are responsible
14 for notifying witnesses when and how they are expected to report to the
15 virtual waiting room. Counsel shall have a second witness on call at all
16 times to testify in the event a witness's connection is lost or other technical
17 difficulties arise.

18 4. Participants who will not be examining witnesses, testifying, or otherwise
19 presenting matters during the proceedings (*e.g.*, attorneys, paralegals, legal
20 assistants, and trial or technical consultants) shall use the ZoomGov.com
21 platform controls to mute their microphones and deactivate their cameras.

22 5. During the virtual hearing, each party and all jurors will be visible on video
with microphones muted.

6. Counsel and the witness are not to communicate through any other device

1 or method while the witness is testifying. Counsel and the witness may not
2 be in the same room.

3 **E. EXHIBITS**

- 4 1. Exhibits shall be numbered in advance of trial in accordance with the
5 protocol set forth in the Minute Order which sets the requirements for
6 exhibits. *See* Minute Order Setting Trial and Related Dates, Dkt. # 12.
- 7 2. All exhibits shall be uploaded by counsel to the “Box.com” platform via
8 one or more links that the Court’s Courtroom Deputy will provide via email
9 prior to the trial date.
- 10 3. Exhibits shall be uploaded to the respective Box.com folders labeled
11 “Plaintiff’s Proposed Exhibits” and “Defendant’s Proposed Exhibits.” At
12 the end of each trial day, the Court’s Courtroom Deputy and counsel will
13 confer, and the Court’s Courtroom Deputy will transfer into the “Admitted
14 Exhibits” folder any exhibits in the folders for “Plaintiff’s Proposed
15 Exhibits” and “Defendant’s Proposed Exhibits” that have been offered and
16 admitted into evidence.
- 17 4. After the close of evidence and before the jury begins deliberating, the
18 Court’s Courtroom Deputy and counsel will confer to confirm that the
19 “Admitted Exhibits” folder accurately reflects the evidence admitted during
20 the course of trial. During their deliberations, the jurors will be provided
21 access to the Box.com folder for “Admitted Exhibits.”
- 22 5. Hard copies of all exhibits shall be delivered to the Court’s Courtroom
Deputy at 700 Stewart Street, Seattle, WA 98101, at least two (2) judicial
days before the first day of trial. These exhibits shall be bound in one or
more three-ring notebooks and appropriately tabbed by exhibit number.
While testifying, each witness shall have available a copy of any exhibit
that he or she will be expected to use or examine during the trial. The

1 witness shall not access any copy of an exhibit unless and until instructed to
2 do so by the examining counsel. With regard to exhibits as to which
3 admissibility is disputed, the Court will conduct proceedings outside the
4 presence of the jury during which counsel may present arguments and, if
5 necessary, voir dire witnesses, using the screen-sharing function in
6 ZoomGov.com to display the exhibits at issue from the respective Box.com
7 folders. To the extent possible, the Court will rule on the admissibility of
8 exhibits before a witness who is expected to use or examine such exhibits
9 testifies.

10

11 6. The parties shall comply with Local Civil Rule 32(e) concerning the use of
12 depositions at trial. Video depositions that are used as substantive evidence
13 shall be broadcast via ZoomGov.com using the screen-sharing function.
14 Counsel may, but are not required to, upload video depositions to their
15 respective Box.com folders, but the recordings will not be transferred to the
16 “Admitted Exhibits” folder. Transcripts of depositions used during the trial
17 for impeachment or as substantive evidence need not be sealed prior to their
18 use. Counsel may either show the portion of the transcript at issue to the
19 witness using the screen-sharing function in ZoomGov.com or transmit the
20 entire transcript to the witness via mail, email, or otherwise in advance of
21 his or her testimony.

22 7. If a program or platform other than Box.com will be used to publish
exhibits to the jury, then counsel shall file, prior to the first day of trial, a
certification signed under penalty of perjury indicating that the exhibits to
be displayed to the jury using the other program or platform are identical to
the exhibits uploaded into the folders on Box.com. The parties may use
trial presentation technology to present exhibits through the screen share
function in ZoomGov.com.

1 **F. PROFESSIONALISM DURING THE TRIAL**

2 1. **Ambient Noise Protocols:**

3 a. All participants who are not actively being questioned as a witness,
4 asking questions of a witness, defending a witness, or providing or
5 responding to opening statements, closing arguments, or other
6 arguments, shall use the ZoomGov.com platform controls to mute
7 their microphone and deactivate their video camera. The Court's
8 Courtroom Deputy, who will "host" the ZoomGov.com sessions,
9 will mute any participant who fails to follow this protocol.
10 b. Participants using multiple devices in a single workspace to access
11 the trial should avoid audio feedback issues by using the microphone
12 and speakers on only one device at a time, or by using headphones.

13 2. **Courtesy and Decorum:** To the extent possible, remote trial participants
14 should conduct themselves in the same way they would if they were
15 physically present in a courtroom. They should avoid interrupting someone
16 who is speaking, except as necessary to raise an objection. Virtual trial
17 participants should silence electronic devices other than the devices
18 necessary to their remote participation, close unnecessary computer
19 programs or applications (such as email or calendar notifications), and take
20 steps to remove or minimize anything in their remote workspace that might
21 distract from the integrity of the proceedings. The Court understands that
22 conducting trial virtually, from one's home, for example, presents many
 challenges. The Court asks all remote participants to do their best to
 maintain professionalism in order to conduct a fair and efficient trial.

3. **Objections:** Counsel should raise their hand to signal an objection in
addition to orally stating their objection. When an objection is made, the
witness shall stop talking until the Court rules on the objection. If the

1 objection requires a discussion outside the presence of the jury, the jurors
2 will be placed in the virtual jury room.

3 4. **Disconnection:** In the event that the Court, a party, an attorney of record, a
4 witness, a juror, or anyone else necessary to the proceedings becomes
5 disconnected from the remote trial, the trial will stop while the connection
6 is reestablished. If the participant has difficulty reconnecting, he or she
7 should call or text the Courtroom Deputy. In advance of calling a witness to
8 the virtual stand, counsel must establish with the witness a protocol for
9 contacting the witness in the event of disconnection and ensure that the
10 alternative means of communication (*e.g.*, a cellular phone) is operational.

11 5. **Appropriate Dress:** Parties, witnesses, and counsel shall dress in the same
12 manner as they would if they physically appeared in a courtroom.

13 6. **Screen Names:** Remote participants should endeavor to use a screen name
14 in the ZoomGov.com platform that indicates their actual first and last
15 names. As “host,” the Court’s Courtroom Deputy will rename any
16 participant whose screen name is incomplete, confusing, unprofessional, or
17 otherwise improper.

18 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

19 The Clerk is directed to send copies of this Order to all counsel of record.

20 Dated this 30th day of November, 2020.

21 
22 The Honorable James L. Robart
 U.S. District Court Judge